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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
HEALTH  
OF THE  
Heysham Urban District  
FOR 1911.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

## ON THE

# HEALTH OF THE HEYSHAM

# URBAN DISTRICT

For 1911.

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**To the Chairman and Councillors of the Heysham  
Urban District.**

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GENTLEMEN,

In making my Seventh Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Heysham Urban District, I should like to refer to the increased prosperity of the District, as shown by the number of houses which have been erected during the last twelve months, or which are in the course of erection, and I am glad to notice that most of the houses are not built in rows, but are either detached or semi-detached.

I should like to see more cottage property erected, as many of the working people are obliged either to occupy houses which are too heavily rented, or to live in small cottages, which are unsuited for any except very small families. I am glad to say, however, that the cases of overcrowding mentioned in my last report, have been remedied by certain members of the family taking bedrooms in neighbouring houses, and in one case, two houses have been converted into one.

Many of the defects in some of the older houses in Lower Heysham, which I pointed out in my last report, have been remedied; windows with small casements have been converted into sash windows, sinks have been provided and ashpits repaired, and in a few places water closets have taken the place of earth closets.

In many of the houses in Hampden Road, water was found to enter the cellars in wet weather; this has been remedied by having a drain laid beneath the houses. The back yards of these houses are very small and ought to be cemented, as in bad weather they are very wet and dirty.

The open ditch between Granville Road and Westminster Road has not yet been filled in. I should like to impress upon you the importance of having this seen to before the commencement of the hot summer weather.

I am pleased to say that Brunswick Road, from Sefton Road to Back Granville Road, is now being properly made, and I understand that the work of paving Back Granville Road and Back Hampden Road will shortly be commenced.

The widening of Heysham Road from Cross Cop to the Strawberry Gardens has also been completed since my last report.

I have frequently drawn your attention to the necessity for a protective railing along the Promenade from the Grosvenor Hotel to the Battery, and have pointed out that several accidents have occurred from people falling off the promenade on to the foreshore. Only a few weeks ago a visitor walked off the edge of the promenade when returning to his lodgings during the night. I strongly urge you to have this attended to, as, during the summer the promenade is usually crowded with children, who, whilst playing games, etc., have no thought for the danger of falling off the edge.

The Scavenging of the district is carried out in an efficient manner by the Council's workmen, and the refuse is thrown into disused claypits on the outskirts of the district.

I have already frequently advised the Council to purchase a refuse destructor, and the necessity for doing this becomes greater in proportion to the increase in the population.

The sewage is carried out into the open sea. In a few of the older houses, earth closets are still in use, but I am glad to say that these are becoming fewer year by year.

The workshops are kept clean, and there are no outworkers in the district. There is only one underground bakehouse, this is well ventilated, has plenty of light, and is frequently white-washed.

There are no lodging-houses in the district.

The Schools are provided with town's water, and have sufficient closet accommodation. The children are inspected periodically by the School Medical Officer.

The water supply is plentiful and of excellent quality, it is obtained from the hills near Lancaster and is supplied by the Lancaster Corporation.

The Fever Hospital consists of two buildings, each giving accommodation for four patients, and up to the present has been used entirely for the isolation of Scarlet Fever.



There is no hospital accommodation for cases of Tuberculosis, and no portable shelters have been provided. Only six cases of Phthisis have been reported in the whole of the district, and two of these are in people who have recently come into the district.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Twenty-one cases of Infectious Diseases were reported during the year, sixteen of Scarlet Fever, four of Diphtheria, and one of Erysipelas.

The first five cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at the beginning of the year, and were due to infection from cases occurring at the end of last year. The next outbreak commenced in July, the first case occurring in the Higher Heysham District, in a family who had just come into the district from Manchester, and it was found that another child had been left in the Monsall Fever Hospital, suffering from the same disease. Several other cases followed in the same neighbourhood, and were undoubtedly due to infection from this case. A few cases occurred later in the Sandylands district, of which the source of infection was not discovered.

Of the sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever, fourteen were removed to the Fever Hospital, the other two being isolated at home. In the four cases of Diphtheria it was not found possible to trace the source of infection. All cases were treated with antitoxin, which is supplied free by the Council. Examinations of the throat membrane are also made when necessary.

There was an outbreak of Measles in April, which necessitated the closing of the Heysham School for a period of four weeks, very few cases occurred in the Sandylands District.

### **COWSHEDS.**

Although a great number of improvements have been made in the sanitary condition of the district as a whole, there is one particular in which no steps have been taken to remove any existing insanitary conditions; I refer to the Cowsheds. I think that the general opinion of the Council is that some of these are so small, one or two being only used for about three or four milk cows, that it is unnecessary to take any action, but in many cases the improvement required would entail a very small amount of labour, and I hope you will see your way to have these seen to before the end of another year.

All the Cowsheds are kept clean, and are regularly white-washed, and the larger Cowsheds are, as a whole, in a good sanitary condition, and have plenty of light, ventilation, and air space. Many of the cowsheds have a paved floor. A cemented or tiled floor would be a great improvement.

The smaller of the Cowsheds at Mr. Outhwaite's, Fanny House, has no window, the light being supplied through the ventilation in door, etc. Provision has been made for a window, but this has been bricked up.

The Cowshed at Winter End also has insufficient light and ventilation and has no proper channel for drainage.

Mr. Orr's Cowshed at Higher Heysham, is very roughly paved, and no attempt has been made to form any channel for drainage. This ought to be attended to, and I should recommend that the paving be replaced by a cemented or tiled floor.

The Hill Side Cowshed, at Lower Heysham, has no ventilation, except through the barn, and is insufficiently lighted, there being no window.

### **DEATH RATE.**

Thirty-two deaths occurred in the district during the year, and one was notified from the Lancaster Asylum. Two of the deaths were in persons belonging to other districts, and have been transferred to the districts to which they belong, which leaves us with a total of thirty-one death belonging to the district. This gives a rate of 9.25 deaths per 1,000 population, which is .25 below the rate for last year. The rate for the whole of the county for 1910 was 12.73 which is the lowest ever recorded for the county, but which is still 3.48 higher than the rate for this district for 1911.

### **BIRTH RATE.**

Fifty-one births were registered during the year, 28 of males and 23 of females. This gives a rate of 15.22 per 1,000, which is 3.29 higher than the rate for last year, but is 7.26 below the county rate for 1910.

### **INFANT MORTALITY.**

Of the 31 deaths registered during the year only three were of infants under the age of 12 months, so that the infant mortality was less than 1-15th of the total deaths, the proportion for the whole of the county being over 1-5th. Of these deaths two were due to premature birth and died within a few hours of birth, the third was due to convulsions, and died at the age of two months. The rate of infant mortality is 58.82 per 1,000 births, which is the lowest rate on record for this district, and is 58.18 per thousand below the County rate for 1910, so that the rate of mortality for this district is just half that for the whole of the county.

## **SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.**

Phthisis.—There were two deaths from Phthisis during the year, which gives a death rate of 0.59 per 1,000, the County rate for 1910 being 0.80, which was the lowest on record.

Other Tubercular diseases contributed two deaths, both from Meningitis. This also gives a rate of 0.59 per 1,000, as compared with a County rate of 1.21 for 1910.

The death rate from tubercular diseases, though only about equal to half the rate for the County, is still much above the average for this district, as we have generally been able to pride ourselves on the low mortality from these diseases.

There was one death from Cancer, which occurred at the very early age of 21 years.

There were two deaths from Bronchitis and two from Pneumonia, the two former being in people over 65 years of age, and the two cases of Pneumonia occurring in children under two years of age.

There were no deaths from any infectious disease.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

**RICHARD HERD, B.A., B.C., CANTAB, L.S.A.**

Medical Officer of Health, Heysham Urban District Council.

